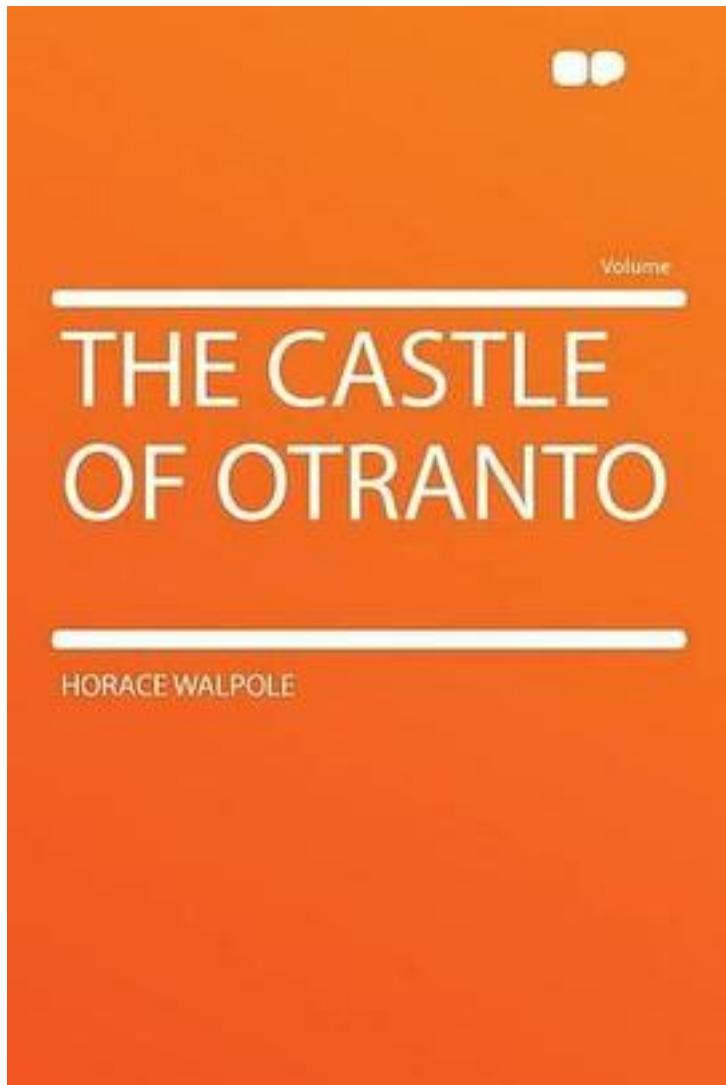


The Castle of Otranto



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著者:Horace Walpole

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On the day of his wedding, Conrad, heir to the house of Otranto, is killed in mysterious circumstances. His calculating father Manfred fears that his dynasty will now come to an end and determines to marry his son's bride himself - despite the fact he is already married. But a series of terrifying supernatural omens soon threaten this unlawful union, as the curse placed on Manfred's ancestor, who usurped the lawful Prince of Otranto, begins to unfold. First published pseudonymously in 1764, purporting to be an ancient Italian text from the time of the crusades, *The Castle of Otranto* is a founding work of Gothic fiction. With its compelling blend of sinister portents, tempestuous passions and ghostly visitations, it spawned an entire literary tradition and influenced such writers as Ann Radcliffe and Bram Stoker.

作者介绍:

Horace Walpole, 4th earl of Orford, original name Horatio Walpole, (born Sept. 24, 1717, London—died March 2, 1797), English writer, connoisseur, and collector who was famous in his day for his medieval horror tale *The Castle of Otranto*, which initiated the vogue for Gothic romances. He is remembered today as perhaps the most assiduous letter writer in the English language.

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